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Manuel Hover

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H.R. Rep. No. 425, 30th Cong., 1st Sess. (1848)

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Report No. 425.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MANUEL HOVER.

MARCH 28, 1848.

Laid upon the table.

Mr. CROWELL, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of the heirs of Manuel Hover, report:*

The papers in this case are annexed hereto. In the opinion of this committee a legal claim to relief is not made out, and they, therefore, offer the following resolution for the consideration of the House:

*Resolved*, That the prayer of the petitioner be not granted.

We, the heirs of Manuel Hover, recollect of hearing our father say, before the revolutionary war, (we think in the time of the French war,) that the Indians took him prisoner, and he was just one year with them, but ran away from them at the risk of his life; and, when Colonel Butler, who was against the Indians, found that Manuel Hover was a smart young man, and was acquainted with the Indians, he gave him the office of a captain, at or about the beginning of the revolutionary war; and the colonel put him on scouting parties against the Indians. Many of their scalps he and his company took, we understood. We heard him say that General George Washington and himself laid many plans how to escape the enemy, and make their companies meet together in battle; for our father was engaged in many under the general. Many were his privations. One time, when the vessels or boats had their guns and provisions on the lake, a storm destroyed their guns and provisions, they were under the necessity to start back to the settlement, a journey of about three hundred miles. There were about three hundred men. It seemed they had, to a man, about one pint

of Indian meal. When a number would lay down to a spring to drink there would be as high as six never rise. There they would leave them, and one-half of the three hundred did not get to the settlement, and not knowing but the Indians would come across them; and before they got in they came across a wild cat that was tainted, which, he said, eat good; for they neither had a gun to kill anything, nor were, perhaps, able to carry one. Our father, when he was captain, part of his time lived and served where he had a farm, one hundred miles above Philadelphia, on Delaware river, in Sussex county, Delaware township, in the State of New Jersey; and had, at his own farm, all around his house, a fort established, and was counted a minute captain. One time the Indians took some of the men of his company, who lived near the fort, prisoners; and they understood the Indians designed to take the fort, and they told them the fort was well fortified and a quantity of men in it, when, at the same time, there were only about four men, with our mother and some of her children, in the fort; and the Indians left the neighborhood. After our father came home and understood the case he followed them, and rescued all the prisoners, with the exception of one, without being hurt. This one, on running from the Indians, our father, was shot by them through the thigh, and he was carried in a blanket, or something of that description. How much your petitioner's father suffered, and what great things he said he did, we do not remember now; but, after the war was over, he was captain still, until the Indians were settled. We, however, remember hearing our father say that one battle he was in was the hardest of all the battles he seen; that the blood ran about shoe-mouth deep; but where it was our minds cannot now remember.

But as for his discharge, we know nothing concerning it, only we remember of our house and property being burnt, and scarcely anything got saved but one bed, a clock, and part of an old large bible. He had a small trunk, where he kept his choice papers—his deeds, &c. We believe his discharge was in that trunk, which he kept in a larger one. His papers, and his library of books, were burnt. Whilst others were petitioning to get pensions and rewards from Congress and the War Department, we, and others, inquired of our father why he did not apply too. He answered, he got what he fought for: and that was victory and peace, and he could live without it. Evident it was, and confident we are, he never sold his right. Neither our mother, nor we, his heirs, nor he, ever got any reward from Congress or the War Department, except he got some continental money; and, as his property was burned a good while before he died, (which occurred eighteen years ago, in Trumbull county, State of Ohio, where he now lies on his own farm,) and as he was so liberal in his turn as to neglect getting his reward after a great burning of his property—we, his heirs, acknowledge we are poor and very needy—and as we have no doubt but you have on record in the War Department all his services and sufferings, (for a multitude of times he would sit and tell about them,) therefore we, his heirs, need, petition, desire, and request Congress and the War Department to give George Green, cur

agent for us; what reward is due for our deceased father's service, both in land and otherwise, any way you see proper; and if there was a quantity of land laid off for our father, as we understand there was for other officers, please let us know where it lies, and in what State and County, and if nowhere as yet, oh! remember our poor situation. These things we can testify and affirm on our qualification and deposition.

Given under our hands and seals, this sixteenth day of February, A. D. 1842.

her  
HANNAH + NICHOLLS, [L. s.]  
mark.  
CATY CLARK, [L. s.]  
SARAH HOLLADAY, [L. s.]  
NANCY ADGATE. [L. s.]

Witnesses present:

JAMES HAYMAKER.

BENJAMIN D. ELLIOTT,

We authorize George Green to try and get a reward from Congress, or the War Department, for our deceased father's services, done in the war or wars of the United States, any way they see proper.

Given under our hands and seals, this sixteenth day of February, A. D. 1842.

her  
HANNAH + NICHOLLS, [L. s.]  
mark.  
CATY CLARK, [L. s.]  
SARAH HOLLADAY, [L. s.]  
NANCY ADGATE. [L. s.]

Witnesses present:

JAMES HAYMAKER,

BENJAMIN D. ELLIOTT.

I, William Nicholls, son-in-law of Manuel Hover, often and repeatedly said, father, (Manuel Hover,) why don't you apply and get some reward from Congress, or the War Department, for your services in the war of the United States, as do others? He always said he could, and sometimes talked as though he would, but never did, as I ever knew or heard; but always said he fought for liberty, and got what he fought for, which shows a soldier and a true American. This I can affirm and testify on my deposition.

Given under my hand and seal, this sixteenth day of February, A. D. 1842.

his  
WILLIAM + NICHOLLS, [L. s.]  
mark.

Witnesses present:

JAMES HAYMAKER,

BENJAMIN D. ELLIOTT.

WARREN, February 13, 1844.

STATE OF OHIO, *Trumbull county, ss.*

Before me, George Austin, a justice of the peace in and for said county, personally came Sarah Holladay and Nancy Adgate, and signed and sealed the foregoing deposition of a petition and power of attorney, and made oath that the foregoing was a correct statement.

Given under my hand and seal the date above written,

Sworn to and subscribed, this 12th day of February, A. D. 1844.

GEORGE AUSTIN,

*Justice of the Peace.*STATE OF OHIO, *Trumbull county, ss.*

I, John Hutchins, clerk of the court of common pleas within and for the said county of Trumbull and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that George Austin, before whom the foregoing and annexed deposition was taken, is now, and was at the taking of the same, a justice of the peace within and for said county and State aforesaid, duly sworn and commissioned agreeably to the laws of the State of Ohio, and that I am acquainted with his signature, and that the above is genuine; and to all of whose official acts as such justice full faith and credit is, and ought to be, given throughout the United States and elsewhere.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed [L. s.] the seal of said court, this 16th day of February, A. D. 1844.

JOHN HUTCHINS, *Clerk.*By C. HERRINGTON, *Deputy.**Another departed hero of the Revolution.*

Died, at Newton, Trumbull county, Ohio, on the 9th inst., Manuel Hover, esq., aged 76. He was an active partizan, from early youth, against the enemies of his country. He was taken prisoner at about 16 years of age by the Indians, in the early part of the French war, with whom he endured much suffering, and was kept by them a prisoner about eighteen months, when he made his escape, and travelled a circuitous route through the wilderness until he arrived at some of the out-posts on the Mohawk, where, at the solicitation of Sir William Johnson, he joined a detachment of regulars and Indians in the British service, to conduct them, as one of their pilots, through the western wilds, to reinforce the garrison at Detroit, about the time the famous Indian chief, Pontiac, attempted to take that post by a deep laid treacherous stratagem. This expedition, as he often said, was very hazardous, and, on their

return, disastrous; for, by a violent storm on Lake Erie, at the approach of winter, they lost their provision and stores, and were thereby reduced to extreme sufferings and almost starvation.

In the revolutionary war he was an early, active, and enterprising officer and soldier. He commanded a company composed of volunteers and regulars, stationed on the Delaware frontiers of New Jersey and Pennsylvania; and, during the whole war, and particularly during the most distressing periods of the revolution, when the British were overrunning the seaboard of New York, New Jersey, and part of Pennsylvania, his devotion to the cause of liberty and his country was that of the genuine patriot. He was ever ready to meet the hostile Indians in their incursions on the frontiers; or, when the remnant of the American army, under the immortal Washington, was retreating before a too powerful foe, we see him, with his little band of heroes, marching with incredible speed to add his mite of strength to the force of his commander-in-chief. Particularly at the battle of Princeton, his march was so rapid, and his conduct so meritorious, that he received the thanks of Washington personally, and was honored with a post in advance of the army on march. In the general's report to Congress he was honorably mentioned.

In civil society he was a worthy member; while a magistrate, indefatigable as a peace maker and an upright judge; to the poor, a charitable friend; to the widow and destitute orphan, a benevolent supporter; to oppressed and persecuted innocence, a firm protector. As a christian, he was eminently superior—zealous, yet humbly meek; charitably liberal, and conscientiously tender of wounding the consciences of those who differed from him in religious opinions, worshipping God according to the dictates of his own conscience, and granting to others, without restraint, the same invaluable blessing. For piety, virtuous forbearance, and charitable and just decision as an elder and member of the church to which he belonged, he was highly loved and esteemed; and, by members of other christian denominations, honored and respected. Yet that christian patience, fortitude, and pious resignation with which he bore a painful and lingering sickness, without complaint: this amiable example may give to his christian brethren joy in the hope of immortality—to his numerous progeny comfort that, in his last moments, death to him was no terror; but they deeply deplore the loss to themselves and friends.—*Trumbull Herald*.

NEWTON, August 18, 1824.